



Consumers for Affordable Health Care

Advocating the right to quality, affordable health care for all Mainers.

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Statement on behalf of Consumers for Affordable Health Care in support of: LD 2106, An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement in strong support LD 2106, An Act to Prohibit the Disclosure of Nonpublic Records Without Proper Judicial Review.

My name is Kate Ende, and I am the Policy Director at Consumers for Affordable Health Care (CAHC), a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that advocates the right to quality, affordable health care for every person in Maine. As designated by Maine's Attorney General, CAHC serves as Maine's Health Insurance Consumer Assistance Program (CAP), which operates a toll-free HelpLine. Our HelpLine fields thousands of calls and emails every year from people across Maine who needed help obtaining, keeping, using, or fixing problems with private health insurance or with accessing or affording health care services. CAHC also serves as the Ombudsman program for Maine's Medicaid program, MaineCare, and helps people apply for and navigate the enrollment process for MaineCare. It is with that background that we provide these comments.

We strongly support LD 2106, which would prohibit the voluntary disclosure of nonpublic records or access to nonpublic areas by immigration enforcement without proper judicial review. This bill is an important step in protecting patient privacy, reinforcing trust in the health care system, and promoting public health.

Confidentiality is foundational to health care. Patients are far less likely to seek preventive care, treatment for chronic illness, mental health services, or emergency care if they believe their personal information could be shared without oversight. This is particularly true for immigrant communities and mixed-status families. When people delay or avoid care, health outcomes worsen and costs rise for the entire system.

LD 2106 helps address these barriers by ensuring that sensitive health information and health care spaces are not subject to voluntary access by immigration enforcement. Requiring judicial review provides an essential due-process safeguard while still allowing lawful access when appropriate. This balance protects civil liberties without interfering with legitimate legal processes.

The bill also provides much-needed clarity for health care providers and institutions. Providers want to comply with the law while maintaining patient trust and meeting their ethical obligations. LD 2106 establishes clear standards that allow providers to focus on delivering care rather than navigating uncertainty about enforcement requests.

Protecting patient privacy strengthens access to care, improves health outcomes, and benefits the well-being of all Maine communities. For these reasons, we urge you to support this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.